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PATENT

IN THE CLAIMS

The current claims follow. For claims not marked as amended in this response, any difference in the claims below and the previous state of the claims is unintentional and in the nature of a typographical error.

1. (Cancelled).
2. (New) A tracking system comprising:
a first mobile device comprising a first position determining apparatus;
a second mobile device comprising a second position determining apparatus; and
a central monitoring system for monitoring the positions of the first and second mobile devices,

wherein the first mobile device is capable of transmitting to the central monitoring system first position information associated with the first mobile device and relaying to the central monitoring system second position information associated with the second mobile device.
3. (New) The tracking system as set forth in Claim 2, wherein the first mobile device relays the second position information to the central monitoring system when the second mobile device is within a threshold distance of the first mobile device.

4. (New) The tracking system as set forth in Claim 3, wherein the second mobile device is capable of transmitting the second position information directly to the central monitoring system.

5. (New) The tracking system as set forth in Claim 4, wherein the second mobile device relays the second position information directly to the central monitoring system when the second mobile device is not within the threshold distance of the first mobile device.

6. (New) The tracking system as set forth in Claim 5, wherein at least one of the first and second position determining apparatuses comprises a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit.

7. (New) The tracking system as set forth in Claim 5, wherein at least one of the first and second position determining apparatuses comprises a transceiver capable of receiving signals from an RF transponder.

8. (New) The tracking system as set forth in Claim 5, wherein a value of the threshold distance is static.

9. (New) The tracking system as set forth in Claim 5, wherein a value of the threshold distance is dynamic.

10. (New) The tracking system as set forth in Claim 5, wherein the central monitoring system monitors the positions of at least one of the first and second mobile devices while the at least one of the first and second mobile devices is within a defined geographical boundary.

11. (New) The tracking system as set forth in Claim 5, wherein the central monitoring system comprises at least a first base station and a second base station capable of receiving a beacon signal from the first mobile device.

12. (New) The tracking system as set forth in Claim 11, wherein the central monitoring system is capable of determining a position of the first mobile device using a triangulation algorithm that uses beacon signals received from the first mobile device by the first base station and the second base station.

13. (New) A first mobile device capable of operating within a tracking system, the first mobile device comprising:

a position determining apparatus for determining a position of the first mobile device; and
at least one transceiver capable of communicating with at least a second mobile device and with a central monitoring system associated with the tracking system,

wherein the first mobile device is capable of transmitting to the central monitoring system first position information associated with the first mobile device and relaying to the central

monitoring system second position information associated with the second mobile device.

14. (New) The first mobile device as set forth in Claim 13, wherein the first mobile device relays the second position information to the central monitoring system when the second mobile device is within a threshold distance of the first mobile device.

15. (New) The first mobile device as set forth in Claim 14, wherein the position determining apparatus comprises a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit.

16. (New) The first mobile device as set forth in Claim 15, wherein the first mobile device transmits a location determined by the GPS unit to the central monitoring system .

17. (New) The first mobile device as set forth in Claim 14, wherein the position determining apparatus comprises a transceiver capable of receiving signals from an RF transponder.

18. (New) The first mobile device as set forth in Claim 17, wherein the first mobile device transmits identification information associated with the RF transponder to the central monitoring system .

19. (New) The first mobile device as set forth in Claim 14, wherein the at least one transceiver is capable of transmitting a beacon signal to a plurality of base stations associated with the central monitoring system .

20. (New) The first mobile device as set forth in Claim 19, wherein the central monitoring system uses beacon signals received by the plurality of base stations to determine a position of the first mobile device.